KOREA.

Jan, Lillias Horton wrote from Seoul, December 14, 1888 :--

Winter is coming on slowly but surely. The children have almost stopped baking chestnuts in the streets, as they did the whole fall, and the thin silk attire, or no attire at all, of summer, has been gradually added to, until now we have coat after coat, sometimes nine layers of garments, several of which are wadded and quilted. On the feet are wadded stockings, and long fur-lined wristlets almost cover the little hands, which for further protection are slipped inside long, warm sleeves; and on the head is a fumny cap, half bonnet, made usually of black or purple silk, lined with fur, with red cord and tassels in front, a hole in the top and long, wide ribbons hanging straight down behind, fastened together with little ornaments. Fires are kept burning all the time, and the kimchi (a sort of pickle which every one cats, and on which poor people live almost solely) is all made, great barrels of it in every house.

ON THE SIREET.

I wooder whether you would enjoy a ride with me to the hospital. My chair is brought over to the orphanage where I teach before going down. It is ery cold riding, and when I step in, I find my nice, warm muff, made of fox-skin, on the floor of he chair, and a thick shawl. When properly wrapped, my chair-men start off at a good steady pace. The street up here is wide, clean and level, with a deep stone ditch at the side and nice walls, made, like those around all Korean compounds and houses, of mud and stone. The clay or sort of mortar which is plastered all over the outside, turns a light yellowish brown. The wall is capped with tiles and looks very pretty. On one side of the street are the Russian and American Legations, the Presbyterian Mission and the Customs; on the other, the Or-

phanage, belonging to us, and the Methodist Mission. But we soon pass this comparatively decent street, and find ourselves in a narrow, crooked alley, the shallow ditches at the side reeking with filth; the houses are mere mud cottages, covered with thatch, and right on the street. Don't imagine anything like a sidewalk. The roofs slope down so low that even little I can barely pass under some of them without stooping. There are plenty of shops, such as they are ; restaurants, where cheese, kimchi, steak, oysters, cliestnuts, fruit, etc., are served to customers. The provision stores just now are full of beautiful pheasants, partridges, wild duck and other game. There is also plenty of delicious fish to be had. The butchers are the lowest class of people in Korea, excepting the poor despised priests, who are not allowed within the gates of the city.

The streets are well filled with people ; a few women with green coats wrapped around their heads and faces, many women of the lower class with heads quite bare, plenty of children, nich sitting in the doorways and by the sides of the houses smoking, babies, in all stages of small-pox, carried around on the backs of other babies. The people are very fond of their children ; it is the commonest thing to see them petting and caressing them, and I have never but once seen a child chastised. Perhaps we shall meet some official going to the palace, in a chair covered with a leopard skin, carried by four men, in the usual blue coat with white belt and trousers and high black hat, He will have some soldiers, and six to twenty servants, crying as they run along, clearing the street before him, "Keroot cheroo," in a sort of minor sing-song, which sounds very well,

BOYS' NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.

Within ten minites' walk from our compound we pass our new school for boys and men, now almost finished. It is the best and prettiest building in Seoul, and has been put up at much less cost than corresponding buildings belonging to other foreigners. We are now anxious to get it well furnished, and especially for books and maps. We need a library of all kinds of foreign books, and shall be glad to secure anything in that line, old or new.

EFFECT ON THE BABIES.

Arrived at the hospital, I enter a court, which is common to all; then up a short flight of steps, through another gate, and find myself in a square court, surrounded by hospital buildings—that is, little one-story houses. I enter my office, which is pretty cold in spite of a fire in a tiny stove, and commence the morning's work. My patients have nost of them malaria, abscesses, skin diseases and sore eyes. No small-pox cases have been brought me yet; they never think of asking medicine for that, it is o common. The babies often scream

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions

Mrs. H. H. Underwood Office of Military Govornment USANGIK APO 235 o/o Fi San Francisco, Calif.

Socul, Korea August 30, 1946

Dear Friends:

#2

I have waited two months to got a clear picture before writing you. Inflation, lack of transportation and materials are always in the foreground. Severe floods have brought added distress. Gradually reads are being repaired; promised shipments of wire, trucks, railroad equipment, gasoline, fortilizer, clothing, bring hope of early relief. Americans and Koreans are working together until I swell with pride in Korea and in the United States.

Poople and country are depleted beyond belief, yet hope and ambition are alive and working.(2)Schools have strotched their capacity by 50% to 200%; still only a small portion of qualified candidates can be admitted. Three thousand paid for entrance examination at the Chosen Christian University where three hundred is the maximum matriculation. They bring the enrollment to 1200, three times normal numbers. Daily Vacation Bible Schools have taught the four "R's"-Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic and Religion--to thousands of illiterate children. Daybreak prayer meetings close to let worshipers go to work at $6:00(\ell)$ Churches are filled. At South Gate every bench was filled and eager listeners crowded outside the windows; West Gate is doubling the present size just to hold the increased congregation. Rural churches also thrive.

Poverty is everywhere. In Seoul, Refugee Camps and Public Eating Places let no one starve or go without sheltor. Cholera has been bad in the country but travel will soon be permitted and rofugee families will scatter to their home towns. There the scene changes but not the need for help. A striking example is White Stone (Pack Suk Ni), twenty miles from Scoul. The poverty striken farm village has cared for seventy families fron. Hanchuria. Grown men and women as well as children are without clothing. There is not an unused skirt, jacket or even rag in the village, yet all have been fed and sheltered. Our Mission Houses each have a hundred rofugees within their bulging walls.

Christian resources have rallied to meet the crisis. The Rev. Whang Chai Kyung (C. K. Whang) has a hostel for Presbyterian youth on Nam San. The Y.W.C.A. has opened a large Student Jostel for girls and have classes in English, cooking, sewing with singing and Bible study for all. Mrs. Helen Chey, President of the W.C.T.U., is struggling with a hostel and workshop for women refugees. Of course practically all relief agencies--city, rural, provincial, national--are in charge of Christian men and women. Three new city churches have been organized by and for Christians from the north.

Change is everywhere, and again the Underwoods are on the move. Rev. James H. takes Ethel and John Foster, born July 20th, to Hancock, New York, where he is pastor of the Presbyterian Church. Grace enters Hood College, Frederick, Maryland. Rev. John T. leaves his Brooklyn Assistant-Fastorato to study Korean under the Prosbyterian Board, probably at Yale. Joan brings Horace Horton II out to Horace Grant and all of us in Secul. They will live in their old homo, the Miller House. We are all addressed, "USAMGIK, APO 235, c/o FM, San Francisco, Calif." Horace Crant is director of higher Education; Sgt. T-3 Richard F, 33999308, Department of Internal Security (Coast Guard and National Defence); Horace Horton, Office of the Hilitary Governor.

Universities open September 5th. I will teach in Ewha and in Chosen Christian University, also give assistance in church and social work. Every one is working beyond the safety zone. Dr. A. L. Becker is leaned to organize and open a University at Pusan. Dr. Billings does the office and leg work of allocating relief. General Hodge wants missionaries for constructive work, and takes them. Koreans beg constantly for men and women missionaries to please, please come to help and comfort. Hope deforred too long may easily turn into resentment. The rod tape and inertia in Mashington breeds despair out here. We hear of men on the way and Generals Hodge and Lerch both say that women will be coming soon.

Many have asked for a list of most needed things. The following list has nothing on it but the basic common essentials for individual use. I would love to see Severance Hospital once more a model, well equipped with blankets, sheets, towels, dressings, with curtains at the windows and lamps at the heads of the beds.

Basic needs of Koroan homos--Soptombor 1946: Clothing, undorelothes, shoes, socks, stockings--especially small sizes. Thread, needles, plain buttons, narrow elastic, safety pins. Yarn, knitting needles; crochet cotton, crochot hooks. Faper, envelopes, pencils, notebooks, crayons. Salt, pepper, sugar, Barley, rice, wheat meal, corn, oat meal. Laundry and toilet scap. More laundry scap. Then some more. Towels, dish cloths, wash cloths, blankets. Asperin, quinine, bandaid, Whitfields ointment, (santanin and colomel salts).

There is now opportunity to send direct aid to anyone in Korea. The ruling is that letters and postal cards may be sent, but no money orders, registered letters or special delivery. Packages may be sent, but under a number of limitations. The weight must not exceed eleven pounds. The address must be complete, including if possible street, town, county and province, and the addressee's name in both English and native characters. It must be understood that non-deliverable packages will not be returned to the sender, but given to so to local authorized relief body for distribution. Contents must be itemized on a tag and must include only genuine relief articles (non-perishable foods, medicine, clothing, etc.). Fackages must be elearly marked as GIFTs and RELIEF or CHARITY. The packages will be subject to regular export-import rulings (duty, etc.). Packages may not be insured. The postage is fourteen cents ($1\mu\mu$) a pound. The Nethodists have established a mailing list at 150 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y., and I will gladly furnish names and addresses. Host of our Koreans do not know English so put in an addressed envelope if you wish to hear when the gift is received.

Almost daily we meet some "friend of a friend" here in Seoul. It keeps you very near, so please toll your friends to look us up and send us their full addresses. We all love to know them.

Dick, Horace Grant and Horace Morton join me in sending greetings to you all.

Sincerely,

Ethel Underwood

March 12, 1946 Offico of Military Governor USANGIK APO 235 o/o Postmaster San Francisco, Calif.

Doar Friends:

A letter from Dr. Hooper dated Jan. 31 addressed to Dr Bigger and myself, and a letter from Dr Sutherland dat d Fob. 6 and sont to Dr. Williams and myself, came a few days age. As these letters chiefly concerned Soverance, Dr Williams and I turned these letters over to $D_{\rm T}$ Bigger, asking him to go into the matter and if possible answer these letters. Dr. Bigger gathered a good deal of material in answer to the questions in these two letters but, as he is leaving this morning for an extended trip thru southern Korea for the Dept. of Public Welfare, he turned the material over to me and asked me to write the letter itself.

Exponded before ond of war on now bldg	160,000.00
(work thus far dono is almost a total loss)	
To finish (actually to rebuild) above class room bldg.	1,300,000.00
Ropairs to heating plant, etc., now in bad shapo	500,000,00

Thus, so long as the MG Subsidy is continued, they come near to making ends meet though this takes no account of such items as upkeep, etc.

Hospital bods now 200; recont average number of patients - 180 Medical school enrolbont - 470; Nurses Treining School - 188

The hospital supplies of linen, blankets, gowns, sewing machines, microscopes are completely exhausted -- they have nothing. Many other items also are very short, almost non-existent.

Building: Severance desires to build a new O P.D. building on the vacant lot, and Dr Bigger stated last night that one glance at the present quarters would convince any one of the urgent need. No estimates as to building costs are possible at present. (My own guess would be that it would cost Yen 5,000,000 to Y 10,000,000. This is based on the current opinion that the yen is really about 100-1 in relation to the dollar.)

Dr. Paul Choi, the President of Soverance, hepes very much that he can be "invited" to come to America to lay the condition and future of Soverance before the Boards and before the people in America. Such an invitation would have to come through War Department channels to the Military Government, I believe.

Dr Biggor roports that monoy cannot now bo sent. Actually before this you doubtless know that arrangements have been made for transmission of monoy through the War Department. Such money apparently could not be sent to an institution like Severance, but sceningly could be sent to Dr Biggor or some other person here for that or any other institution. However, it would have to be sint at the ruinous rate of 15-1. Many people here believe it would be better for the Beerds to authorize their representative here to berrow money for such institutions, payment to be made when an equable exchange rate is set up.

Dr. Biggor roports on hispitals in other parts of Korea, such information as he has been able to gather:

Taiku: Running under Korean management; in great need of re-equipment and general repairs.

Andong: Closed, building used as a school by Koreans.

Chongju: Used as barracks by U.S. troops; Disponsary building used as school. Pyongyang: Running much as formerly in controls but has many general needs. Chanja- Run as a private hospital.

Sychelian: Doing fairly woll, Russians have taken all b.ds; Koreans have asked for cotern of Dr. Smith.

Kangkoi: Doing Well amor Korean Dr. Pak.

Songdo: (Dr. Biggor's notes here are not clear). Apparently part is being used by Arry, and part for some research work under the University. (An not sure from pencilled notes.)

Wonsan: Run as private hospital.

Harhoung: Taken over by Korcans, occupied by modical college.

The above completes the notes and reports prepared by Dr. Bigger, and I think answers in the main the questions asked in your respective letters re Severance and re hospitals in general. It should, of course, b; understood that even where needs for repairs and equipment are not mentioned all hospitals and all other institutions are in need of such assistance.

Dr. ^digger did not include in his notes what he had to say regarding shipment of goods to Korea. I hope he has written you direct but I will try from memory of his conversation to inform you. Probably you can get this information in Washington.

- 1. Goods must be sent at expense of the sonding organization (actually relief goods from Hawaii are being shipped at government expense).
- 2. Goods sont must not exceed 500 measured tons per month.
- 3. Porishible goods and foods must not be sunt, only food needed for infants and for sick.
- 4. Relief organizations may not send more than two representatives to the field.
- 5. There was a further clause about relations and coordination with UNRRA which I can not quote from memory.

I think this covers all the pat rial given me by Dr Bigger who was unable to write himself on account of his departure on this trip to southern Morea.

In ro-reading your lotters, however, I note one or two things which apparently have not been taken up.

Question of Military Government Taking over Hospitals :

Thus far this has not been done in Korea, and noither Dr. Digger nor I have heard of any such plen. It certainly cannot be counted upon.

...dditional Needs of Severanos and Other Institutions:

I an surprised that Severance has not specifically asked for a large sum for the general repair and rehabilitation of the institution. Altogether, aside from the uploup of the institution as it stands or for a new building, I an sure that a fairly large sum will be needed to clean, to repaint, to refinish floors, to replace bods that are almost unusable, glass, etc.

Among these should be a considerable amount to remody the pres at water situation. Increased population, plus leaks in the water system, have so reduced the water supply of Severance that it is impossible to get water above the first floor; This in a hospital; The situation will eventually be remedied by large scale increases in the water supply and pumping systems of the city. To expect this within a y.ar would be highly optimistic, and it so was more likely that it will be much longer. However, it should be possible to build a small tank on the streat with a pumping system. I should think that this c uld b done for say, Yon 15,000-20,000 (clost a guoss!) This illustrates the spread of moods.

Speaking for mys.lf, I would say that the Boards in New York or the Coopcrating Boards night well appoint someone as their representative in Morea who could hear the Sev rance requests and pass on their necessity and priority. Such an individual might place cartain phases of repairs and elecning, in the interests of sanitation, about some more showy needs asked for by certain parties. This, however, is only by personal opinion on which I have not had opportunity to consult

I understand that Dr. Biggor has written carlier in regard to CCRM's questions on shipping, which will doubtless have answared the questions on this phase of the matter in your letters.

In regard to other inttors montioned in Dr. Hooper's letter, I will say that the missionaries now on the field (former missionaries) are drafting a letter to go to both the Boards which will take up these questions. In connection with this, I an securing from the XXIV Corps Chief of Staff an official statement as to the radiograms sent by Corps in regard to r turn of missionaries.

The cable rates between Korea and the United States for cobles to personnol under the War Department are now exceedingly low. (Yen 30 for a twenty-five word night letter to be dolivered in New York in approximately thirty hours.) I would beg to suggest that, in case of urgancy, advantage be taken of this, especially as the mail service has been greatly slowed by the discharges of large numbors of air force ground personnel. Letters which came in ten days in November and December are now taking from three woeks to a month for transmission.

Hoping that the above information, largely assembled by Dr. Bigger, will beholpful to the Boards and will bring to Suverance and other institutions early and adequate assistance, I an

Yours respectfully Horace H. Underwood ----

P. S. Counandor Williams was mistaken in the idea that Suv rance contemplated buildings on the stroot for rontal purposes. There is no such plan at prosent and the "partly coupleted building" is for back from the street.

QUESTIONMAIRE ON POSSIBLE FUTURE OF MISSION EDUCATIONAL WORK IN KOREA

Distributed by

Special Committee on Education of Post-War Planning Committee for Korea

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156 Fifth Avenue New York: City August 4, 1944

Dear Friends:

All our hearts are in Morea. We all want to return. We all want to continue to help our Korean friends to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to place in their hands the tools and equipmont they will need as Christians for the evangelization of their people and for the conduct and support of their churches.

We all started planning when we said "we plan to return". This alone is not enough. The difficulties of making plans new are obvious. We recognize that any plans made new may have to be scrapped or changed when we return. However, while the future is unknown, we can make some fairly good guesses and we must make cortain assumptions.

The Sub-Committee on Korea of the East Asia Post-War Planning Committee is fully cognizant both of the noed and the difficulties of planning. It feels, however, that as a preli inary it is desirable to gather the opinions of you who are experts on Korea. It therefore chose Dr. H.H. Underwood, Rov. William Scott, and Miss Marion Courow and directed them to prepare a questionnaire to be sent you.

Wo, the Committee, Jarnostly ask

- 1. That you remember that these questions are all based on the assumptions
 - A. That Korea will be free, at least for missionary work
 - B. That Koroans will welcome missionary cooperation
 - C. That if the above are true the obnexious provisions and restrictions of the past will be removed.
- That you answor all or as many of these questions possible. This is not a vote; you are not committing yourself; you may (most of us probably will) change your mind later on many points.
- 3. That having answored, you return the paper to Dr. H.H. Underwood, Prosbyterian Beard of Foreign Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, 10, N.Y., on or before Soptember 1, 1944, if possible. Nothing received after Soptember 30th can be included in the compilation of results and it is hepedthat sufficient answers may be received by Soptember 1st to make a preliminary tabulation possible.

This questionnaire is on education but others are to be made. One on Medical work is doubtless now in preparation. The Evangelistic work as the central feature of all our work also will need our careful thought.

We are also attempting to ascertain the facts for a survey of existing educational property, its probable or known condition and the experienced personnel known to be available for return to Korea.

Remembering in each question the assumptions; understanding our priviloge and very probable need of revising our opinions and knowing the need of securing the best possible present opinion, we earnestly beg your prayerful consideration of these questions.

Yours in planning for Koroa,

(Signed)

Marion Conrow William Scott

Horace H. Underwood

HHU/EC Encl. TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

Yonsei University Seoul, Korea 18 Sept. 1989

Dear Eileen,

My favorite researcher!

l only seem to write when I have a fovor to ask. The university has asked Dr. LEE Kwang Rin, a Yonsei graduate and long-time history prof at Sogang (now retired) to write a biography of grandfather. He has had access to all the normal printed stuff, so far as 1 can find out, except some of the early missionary magizines (in the U.S.). However, he has not had (or yet sought) access to any materials in the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Several years ago I heard that most letters, reports, etc. were thrown out because of no space, and others microfilmed. Anyway, any such material available for such a biography would be deeply appreciated. I have an idea I am asking an awful lot, and if there is a great deal of material perhaps Dr. Lee could even make a triby there - if he could get permission to get to the material, though I am not sure what the chances are of his going.

Obviously the biography will be from a Korean point of view, but Dr. Lee is NOT a "revisionist" and I am confident anything he writes

"Thanking you in advance" as they say - and I DO mean it!!

Family news in brief: Stephen got married in June to a classmate. David was out for the summer, now back at Swarthmore. Dick's David had an operation for a cancerous condition - apparently successful. John is back in the States - just had an operation to remove something from his colon - also successful. They are staying for their Tom's wedding in Washington on 7 October. Carol's back condition is improving. Dorothy and 1 chug along fine.

It looks as though the Taech'on City plan for the "development" of the beach is going through and we will probably have to try to move someplace. So far no time table. Should be OK for next summer. Hope you will be here.

2 October is being celebrated as the centennial of Australian missions in Korea (Davies' arrival) with a big gang of visitors coming: some invited by the Korean church, some sent by the UCA and some coming on their own.

No doubt there is much other news, but that is all that occurs to me this moment.

Thank you again for everything.

Ever,

Horace G. Underwood



ਫ਼IY 寻旧百

A KOREAN MAGISTRATE.

than real life, or its life is worthless. They have liberties who dare maintain them.

Korea's courage is of the rat kind. It runs in the open field and fights in a corner. "On the plain they are kittens, in a fort tigers." Korea is one vast fort, within which the nation has fought against the surrounding nations. Driven into their feudal castles, they fight to utter extermination. Disarmed, they throw dirt in the enemy's eyes as long as a single hand retains life enough to move. This trait types their character. As we might expect, they hide in many refuges of lies. They are, perhaps, the champion liars of Asia.

It would be a mistake to rate them on the same plane with their North American relatives. They have much ability in some directions, or, more correctly speaking, they have had considerable ability in the past, and retain its possibilities. Korea produced a printed book in 1317 (A. D.), more than a hundred years in advance of Europe. The earliest recorded use of the compass is in Korean waters, A. D. 1122. They, also, first of the Asiatic races, made paper from cotton, and their cotton paper to-day has the right of way. In Peking one can see tailors lining the mandarins' coats with it. Korea has also the honor of giving civilization to Japan.

Conquered by Japan, as Greece conquered by Rome conquered Roman barbarity by her arts and refinements, so Korea has conquered Japan by giving her art, letters, science (quite rude), and ethics (Asiatic). She sent over to Japan for centuries a host of scholars, artists, and missionaries, who took with them the polite manners of Korea, the literature of China, and the religion of India. A candle lights its mate without reducing its own brightness, but the candle of Korea has burned to the socket, and its candlestick has been removed to the Island Kingdom. The possibility of blotting out a great art with its artists and artisans has been illustrated here. Four centuries ago Japan came over and carried away all the skilled workmen of Korea, especially the porcelain manufacturers To-day one finds here and there in the curio shops of Seoul a fragment of "Crackle-ware" that has survived these centuries of drudgery; all modern products are of the coarsest and most crude fashion, while the transported art sprang up to perfection in the friendly soil of Japan, where one now finds porcelain worthy a place by the side of the world's best .- Christian Advocate.

A Korean Magistrate.

The Rev. H. G. Underwood, of the Presbyterian Mission in Korea, married last spring and made a wedding-tour through the country - He gives an account of a Korean magistrate at Kangkai who visited him soon after he arrived at the place.

The magistrate, a man of high rank and a pulished gentleman, sent word that he was going to call, and in a few moments arrived, preceded hy a band, attired in his robes of state, surrounded by a host of officials, wife, superintendent of our newly-organized Malaysia

nishing. It must have something, some ideas worth more servants, and dancing-girls, his arrival announced by the firing of a gun. The middle doors, as the most honorable, were thrown wide open. Mr. Underwood, according to Korean custom, stepped outside the door, with hat on, to greet him, and he was ushered into the room. His dress was a long; thin, dark purple Chinese silk chat, made sleeveless, worn over h jacket of rich hright red, with lopse sleeves, under which were long wristlets of light green silk.

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He wore the usual white, full, Korean pantaloons, with the immaculate white hose on his small, wellshaped feet. Around his waist was fastened a silk cord, and at his side hung two wide bands of chamois-skin, the ends of which, nearly reaching the bem of his robes, were two little bags of the same skin containing the insignia of his office. These he carries about with him every-where, and should he lose them he would lose his head also.

A servant brought in and placed near him a strong wooden box, about twelve inches long by six wide and high, containing his official seal. This also is carried every-where with him, except into the presence of a bighter official.

Mr. Underwood returned this visit within a half hour. The next day the magistrate invited him to see the city and to feast with him near the river. Of course an immense throng were in attendance. After eating, the dancing-girls came prepared to offer wine, with dance and song. This Mr. Underwood refused, hegging his excellency not to consider it discourtesy, and explaining his reasons briefly. Then came a long tall. His excellency, who is a very intelligent man, asked a great many questions, in reply to which Mr. Underwood was obliged to tell him a great deal about geography, astrononly, history, and foreign customs. He asked several questions, also, about Christ, in whom he showed much interest.

A Week With Our Missionaries at Singapore.

BY REV. M. V. H. KNOX, PH.D.

At high noon, Thursday, Feb. 7, we had taken a pilsh and were slowly steaming through the narrow western entrance between the islands into Singapore harbor. A battery of hig guns frowned down upon us at the right not more than three hundred yards from the channel, while the hills hack of the city at our left also bristled with the grim dogs of war. To the south the harbor lies open and wide, much like that of Naples, to the west, but lacking the high rocky capes in the offing. Scores of ships were lying here and there about the capacious anchorage, some fied to the docks, some close to the shore, others far out; many of them were pative coasting-boats, in so marked contrast with the large steamers that now do most of the world's carrying. They told of two or three ships that were flying the Stars and Stripes; but I did not get time to visit them. I was in company with Rev. ["] F. Oldham and

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H.G. UNDERNOOD 5

JOYOUS NOEL

1993

y oy is in our hearts as we come again to this Christmas season. A pessimist might point to all the unjoyful things in the world and even in our own circles, but the joy of Jesus' coming transcends all troubles and we rejoice in the wonderful way lie has sustained us and blessed us.

ur ilves have in many ways gone on much as before, busy with teaching, meetings, writing, entertaining visitors, church duties, going to recitals and concerts, meeting with and counselling students, special lectures - all the things that make up our daily lives. Yet the year has also had its special events, landmarks that will set it aside from those before.

y onsei is still Horace's major interest. As a member of the Board of Directors he is on several committees, mostly having to do with the business side of the Foundation. New buildings seem to be going up all the time, but President Song is even more interested in up-grading the quality of the university with new faculty, tighter academic controls and strengthened research activities, to meet the challenges of a more open world. Ewha University, too, is making similar efforts.

ratorios have been Dorothy's main concern for the past 5 or 6 years and the major work, a history of the oratorio (in Korean) will be published early in the new year - at long last. Writing the book was of course on top of her regular heavy load of classes, individual lessons and large choirs: one of all Sacred Music majors (160 girls), another of 120 second year music students, the 20-voice Ewha Collegium Musicum and a faculty choir as well. The reward of hours of frustration is the beautiful sound at the semi-annual recitais. Another special reward this year has been the great success of one of her students in New York, whose ambition is to join the Metropolitan Opera. She has won prizes in four competitions in New York this year. Also, three of Dorothy's studentrs who trained overseas began teaching on the part-time Ewha faculty this year. One is a lecturer in Music History, one is a voice teacher, and one has taken over her Oratorio Workshop class, What a thrill

Merwood news is mlxed. Our three boys are all doing well. Horace is Director of the International Division at Yonsel while Nancy teaches English and is hostess to the entire community. Bill got his Ph.D. in Geology from Tulsa U., and Peter has increasingly responsible work in is consulting firm and has just been elected Vice President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Seoul. Dick & Carol are enjoying retirement in Urbana, James & Ethel in Maine and Grace & Jack in Minneapolis go on much as before, but John & Jean have had a rough time. They left Korea in July on retirement a couple of months earlier than planned so John could be operated on for a recurrence of cancer but the doctors were unable to deal with it. Jean started the year with a heart by-pass operation and ended with a "modified radical" mastectomy from which she has recovered with remarkable speed. They have retired to "Pligrim Place" in Claremont, Cal. where Jean is reveiling in her opportunities to play her viola.

semunan Church still plays a big part in our lives. Although Horace as an Elder Emeritus is not quite so involved these days Dorothy still conducts the Women's Choir every Wednesday evening (no holidays or vacations) and teaches an English Bible Class each Monday. One of the members has been attending for 10 years and another for 81 in addition there are special services, all-night prayer meetings (we go only about four times a year) and the regular meetings of the Women's Association and the "Kwonsa" Association and the church's music committee. The second week in Novemeber was "Missions week" when we received reports from 100 churches and institutions and our missionary to Thailand now home on furlough whom the church supports. Next year we are sending out another missionary, this time to Moscow. Speaking of Moscow, we recently attended the commissioning service of another Korean Presbyterian missionary who is to help establish a Chaplaincy program for the Russian Army at their requesti Who would have dreamt of such an opportunity even three years ago.

ext year will be a different one for us. We will have a short home assignment in Australia from late June to the end of August, then Dorothy will take six months of long-service or study leave to do research in New York for another book - on the Cantata, this time. She has been hampered by the lack of adequate primary sources here. We look forward to renewing old friendships and meeting many new people while Dorothy starts on the last major opus of her carreer as an Ewha Professor of Sacred Music.

verseas visitors are always a joy, whether individuals or groups, and this year brought a number to share with us in the good news of the church in Korea. Our guest room is frequently occupied, and Horace has worn tracks in the city streets and country roads guiding the visitors around. This year we were especially thrilled to welcome back quite a number of erstwhile missionary colleagues and their offspring. Other news! The new American Ambassador to Korea is James Laney. He and his wife were Methodist missionaries here 30-plus years ago and he was most recently President of Emory University. They start with a high approval rating from all circles, as does KIM Young Sam, the new President of Korea, a Presbyterian Elder, and widely lauded (and prayed for) for his strong push toward democratization.

ven llorace has got into the writing game and a long article on "Christianity in Korea" will be published in <u>Hissiology</u> magazine in January. Something over eleven million people now confess Christ in this land. Although some try to dismiss this as "mere numbers," Christians are increasingly involved in the community. Yangji Rehabilitation Center is a long-standing project, but new ones are springing up all the time. Recently a sheltered workshop for the physically handicapped was started in the northern part of Seoul, Saemunan Church has opened a child care center in a poor city district, and Horace was recently asked to preach at a church for the blind, just a few of the many examples of Christian outreach.

ast of all we send our loving greetings to all our friends. The advice columnist, Ann Landers, disparages such letters as these, but we treasure hearing from you and hope you will keep in touch with us. We will be in New York next Christmas, but back here by the end of February, eager to get all your news. And may the love of family and friends, the happiness of Christmas, the joy of our Lord's coming be with you now and the year ahead.

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(909) 621-0682

Dr. Horace G. Underwood is Euried in the cemetery of the Grove Reformed Church 1132 - 46 # Street North Bergen, n.J. 04047 (located on corner of 46= St and Kennedy Blog.) 201)863-0432

KOREA LETTERS - Reel # 174 1884.1887

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